

**BLOCK III:
SOCIALIZATION AND SOCIAL
STRATIFICATION**

Unit 1 : Socialization

Unit 2 : Agents of Socialization

Unit 3 : Social Stratification and Social Mobility

**Unit 4 : Relationship of Education with Social
Stratification and Social Mobility**

UNIT-1

SOCIALIZATION

Unit Structure:

- 1.1 Introduction
- 1.2 Objectives
- 1.3 Concept of Socialization
 - 1.3.1 Definition of Socialization
- 1.4 Nature and Characteristics of Socialization
 - 1.4.1 Motivating factors involved in Socialization
- 1.5 Types of Socialization
- 1.6 Stages of Socialization
- 1.7 Summing Up
- 1.8 Questions and Exercises
- 1.9 References and Suggested Readings
- 1.10 Answer to Check Your Progress

1.1 Introduction:

The human infant comes into the world as biological organism with animal needs. He is gradually moulded into a social being and he learns social ways of acting and feeling through training and experiences received from the family and surroundings. This is a kind of social training. Without this process of moulding, the society could not continue itself, nor could culture exist, nor could individual become a person because, if an individual wants his existence in the society as a social being, he/she must behave according to the accepted norms of society. This process of moulding is called “Socialization”. The process of socialization is conditioned by culture. In this unit, we will basically deal with the concept and process of socialization and different types of social interaction.

1.2 Objectives:

After going through this unit you will be able to —

- *define* the term socialization,
- *identify* the characteristics of socialization,
- *explain* the process of socialization,
- *explain* various forms of social interaction,
- *know* the stages of socialization.

1.3 Concept of Socialization:

Socialization is a process of making an individual social. In other words socialization is a process through which society develops an individual according to its ideals, beliefs and traditions and bestows recognition as social being. In short, the basis of socialization is interaction. In other words, socialization means that process through which an individual interacts with other individuals and learns social ideals, attitudes and patterns of behaviour. The individual, inspired by the ideals of social service and social welfare through interaction, makes himself well-adjusted with his family, neighbours and other social groups so that he himself becomes a true social being in the real sense of the term. In this way, the whole process of socialization falls within the scope of interaction or social action.

Human infants are born without any culture. They must be transformed by their parents, teachers, and others into cultural and socially adept animals. The general process of acquiring culture is referred to as socialization. Socialization is known as the process of inducting the individual into the social world. The term socialization refers to the process of interaction through which the growing individual learns the habits, attitudes, values and beliefs of the social group into which he has been born. As such it is the process by which human infants begin to acquire the skills necessary to perform as a functioning member of their society, and is the most influential learning process one can experience. Unlike many other living species, whose behavior is biologically set, human need social experiences to learn their culture and to survive. Many scientists say socialization essentially represents the whole process of learning throughout the life course and is a central influence on the behavior, beliefs, and actions of adults as well as of children.

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Thus, it can be defined as a process with the help of which a living organism is changed into a social being. It is a process through which the younger generation learns the adult role which it has to play subsequently. It is a continuous process in the life of an individual and it continues from generation to generation. Socialization prepares people to participate in a social group by teaching them its norms and expectations. Socialization has **three primary goals**: teaching impulse control and developing a conscience, preparing people to perform certain social roles, and cultivating shared sources of meaning and value. Socialization is culturally specific, but this does not mean certain cultures are better or worse than others. The process of learning one's culture and how to live within it.

Socialization is, thus, a process of cultural learning whereby a new person acquires necessary skills and education to play a regular part in a social system. The process is essentially the same in all societies, though institutional arrangements vary. The process continues throughout life as each new situation arises. It is the process of fitting individuals into particular forms of group life, transforming human organism into social being and transmitting established cultural traditions.

1.3.1 Definition of Socialization:

Socialization is a term used by sociologists, social psychologists, anthropologists, political scientists, and educationalists to refer to the lifelong process of inheriting and disseminating norms, customs, and ideologies, providing an individual with the skills and habits necessary for participating within their own society. Socialization is thus “the means by which social and cultural continuity are attained”. Many sociologists put their views on the process of socialization from their own perspectives. As such, you may find variation in the definitions of socialization. Some of them are mentioned here for your clear understanding of the very process—

W.F. Ogburn, “Socialization is the process by which the individual learns to conform to the norms of the group.”

MacIver: Socialization is the “process through which social being develops relationships and associate with each other.”

J.S. Ross: “Socialization is the development of we-feeling in associates and the growth in their capacity and will to act together.”

Peter Worsley explains socialization as the process of “transmission of culture, the process whereby men learn the rules and practices of social groups.”

Green: Socialization is the process by which the child acquires a cultural content, along with selfhood and personality.”

H.T. Mazumdar: Socialization is a process whereby original nature is transformed into human nature and the individual into person.”

Kimball Young writes, “Socialization will mean the process of inducting the individual into the social and cultural world; of making him a particular member in society and its various groups and inducting him to accept the norms and values of that society. . . . Socialization is definitely a matter of learning and not of biological inheritance.”

Arnett, outlined what he believes to be the three goals of socialization:

- impulse control and the development of a conscience.
- role preparation and performance, including occupational roles, gender roles, and roles in institutions such as marriage and parenthood.
- the cultivation of sources of meaning, or what is important, valued, and to be lived for.

Every man tries to adjust himself to the condition and environment predominantly determined by the society of which he is a member. If he fails to do so, he becomes a social deviant and is brought back into line by the efforts of the group of which he is a member. This process of adjustment may be termed as socialization. It is the opposite of individualization. It is a process of the expansion of the self. It develops in him the community feeling.

STOP TO CONSIDER

Socialization is, thus, a process of cultural learning whereby a new person acquires necessary skills and education to play a regular part in a social system. The process continues throughout life as each new situation arises.

1.4 Characteristics of Socialization:

The concept and definitions put forwarded by different sociologists enable us to derive some of the core characteristics of socialization. Some of the important are—

- **Socialization takes place formally and informally:** Formal socialization takes through direct instruction and education in schools and colleges. Family is, however, the primary and the most influential source of education. Children learn their language, customs, norms and values in the family.
- **Socialization is a continuous and gradual, rather than a salutatory process:** Socialization is a life-long process. It does not cease when a child becomes an adult. In nature we find that every species or organism follows a pattern of socialization. The same is the case with human beings. Socialization occurs in orderly manner and follows a certain sequence which, in general is the same for most children. The rate and speed of development may vary in individual cases.
- **Socialization is a product of interaction of the organism and its environment:** But it is not possible to indicate exactly in what proportion heredity and environment contribute to the individual Socialization. The two work hand in hand from the very conceptions. The environment bears upon the new organism from the beginning. Among, the environmental factors like nutrition, climate, the conditions in the home, the type of social organization in which individual move and live, the roles they have to play and other.
- **Socialization is a continuous process:** Socialization does not stop at any time. It continues from the moment of conception until the individual reaches maturity. It takes place at a slow or a rapid rate but at a regular pace rather than by leaps and bounds. There may be a break in the continuity of growth due to illness, starvation or malnutrition or other environmental factors or some abnormal conditions in the child's life.

- **Socialization is rapid if there is more humanity among the- agencies of socialization:**

Socialization takes place rapidly if the agencies of socialization are more unanimous in their ideas and skills. When there is conflict between the ideas, examples and skills transmitted in home and those transmitted by school or peer, socialization of the individual tends to be slower and ineffective.

- **Socialization proceeds from general to specific responses:**

It is observed that general activity always precedes specific activity. The early responses of the baby are very general in nature which is gradually replaced with specific ones. The earliest emotional responses of the new born are generally diffused excitement and this slowly gives way to specific emotional patterns of anger, joy, fear, etc. Babies wave their arms in general, random movements before they are capable of such specific responses as reaching for an object held before them.

- **Socialization involves change:**

The human being is never static. From the moment of conception to the time of death, the person is undergoing changes. Nature shapes most clearly socialization through genetic programming that may determine whole sequences of later. It refers to a socialization progressive series of orderly coherent changes.

- **Socialization is often predictable:**

Psychologists have observed that each phase has certain common socialization traits and characteristics. We have seen that the rate of for each child's social training is fairly constant. The consequence is that it is possible for us to predict at an early age the range within which the child is likely to fall.

- **Socialization is unique:**

Each child is a unique individual. No two children can be expected to behave or develop in an identical manner although they are of the same age or even from the same mother. For example, in the same class, a child who comes from a deprived environment cannot be expected to do as well in studies as a child of the same ability whose parents put high value on education and encourage the child to study.

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• **Socialization is an individualized process:**

We know that individual difference is a natural fact. These individual differences arise because each child is controlled by a unique combination of hereditary endowment and environmental factors. All children therefore do not reach the same point of at the same socialization age. It differs from child to child.

• **Socialization practices varied markedly from society to society:**

The socialization practices are generally similar among people of the same society. This is not surprising since people from the same culture and community are likely to share core values and perceptions.

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Que. 1: What is your conception about socialization?

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Que. 2: What are the three goals of socialization?

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Que. 3: State the definition of socialization as given by Ogburn.

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Que. 4: Why is socialization considered as an individualized process?

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1.4.1 Motivating factors involved in Socialization:

There are some factors which are considered as motivating in the process of socialization. Following factors play motivating role in the process of socialization-

1. **Rear and Care:** Careful upbringing of the child is very helpful in the process of socialization.

2. **Sympathy and Love:** Drastic changes can be brought in the child by sympathy and love. If child is treated sympathetically and lovingly by his parents, family members and relatives, he will behave with others in the same manner.
3. **Co-operation:** Co-operation given to the child creates “we feeling” in him. This leads to development of various socially approved behavior in them.
4. **Forbidding:** Many time children are easily deviated from his/her normal behavior due to various environmental factors including peer influence. As such, for proper socialization children should be forbidden to do something so that he may not develop undesirable tendencies in him.
5. **Advice:** A child generally acts in accordance with the suggestions given to him from his well-wishers. It plays very important role in the process of socialization.
6. **Identification:** Child sometimes identifies the person or persons whom he likes more and he tries to behave in the same way as the person identified by him had behaved in the past.
7. **Imitation:** Child imitates much behavior of his family member, peer group, neighbors or teachers without receiving any instructions from them. This imitation plays an important role in acquiring many social learning.
8. **Reward and Punishment:** When a child acts according to the norms and ideas of the society as he was instructed before he is rewarded by the family. On the other hand if he does something wrong from social point of view, he is punished.

Along with these there are so many other factors responsible for socialization of the children like informal group teaching, strict supervision, Peer Culture etc.

SELF-ASKING QUESTION

1. What are the factors contributing to the socialization process?

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1.5 Types of Socialization:

After going through the concept, nature and motivating factors responsible for socialization, it is essential for you to identify the basic types of socialization. The knowledge of types of socialization helps you to get better understanding of the process and how this process take place in person at different phases of their lives. The important types of socialization are discussed over here-

- 1. Group Socialization:** Group socialization holds that an individual's peer groups, rather than parental figures, influences his or her personality and behavior in adulthood. Adolescents spend more time with peers than with parents. Therefore, peer groups have stronger correlations with personality development than parental figures do. Entering high school is a crucial moment in many adolescent's lifespan involving the branching off from the restraints of their parents. When dealing with new life challenges, adolescents take comfort in discussing these issues within their peer groups instead of their parents.
- 2. Gender Socialization:** Henslin contends that "an important part of socialization is the learning of culturally defined gender roles." Gender socialization refers to the learning of behavior and attitudes considered appropriate for a given sex. Boys learn to be boys and girls learn to be girls. This "learning" happens by way of many different agents of socialization.

Parents play a very significant role in gender socialization. Sociologists have identified four ways in which parents socialize gender roles in their children: Shaping gender related attributes through toys and activities, differing their interaction with children based on the sex of the child, and communicating gender ideals and expectations.

- 3. Anticipatory Socialization and Re-socialization:** Anticipatory socialization refers to the processes of socialization in which a person "rehearses" for future positions, occupations, and social relationships.

Re-socialization refers to the process of discarding former behavior patterns and reflexes, accepting new ones as part of a transition in one's life. This occurs throughout the human life cycle. Re-socialization can be an intense experience, with the individual experiencing a sharp break with his or her

past, as well as a need to learn and be exposed to radically different norms and values.

- 4. Racial Socialization and Cultural Socialization:** Racial socialization has been defined as the developmental processes by which children acquire the behaviors, perceptions, values, and attitudes of an ethnic group, and come to see themselves and others as members of the group.

Cultural socialization refers to parenting practices that teach children about their racial history or heritage and is sometimes referred to as pride development.

- 5. Planned Socialization and Natural Socialization:** Planned socialization occurs when other people take actions designed to teach or train others—from infancy on.

Natural socialization occurs when infants and youngsters explore, play and discover the social world around them.

- 6. Positive Socialization and Negative Socialization:** Positive socialization is the type of social learning that is based on pleasurable and exciting experiences. We tend to like the people who fill our social learning processes with positive motivation, loving care, and rewarding opportunities.

Negative socialization occurs when others use punishment, harsh criticisms or anger to try to “teach us a lesson;” and often we come to dislike both negative socialization and the people who impose it on us.

- 7. Broad and Narrow Socialization:** Arnett proposed distinction in types of socialization. Arnett distinguishes between broad and narrow socialization. Broad socialization is intended to promote independence, individualism, and self-expression; it is dubbed *broad* because this type of socialization has the potential of resulting in a broad range of outcomes.

Narrow socialization is intended to promote obedience and conformity; it is dubbed *narrow* because there is a narrow range of outcomes.

- 8. Primary and Secondary Socialization:** Primary socialization takes place early in life, as a child and adolescent. Primary socialization for

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a child is very important because it sets the ground work for all future socialization. Primary socialization occurs when a child learns the attitudes, values, and actions appropriate to individuals as members of a particular culture. It is mainly influenced by the immediate family and friends.

Secondary socialization refers to the socialization that takes place throughout one's life, both as a child and as one encounters new groups that require additional socialization. Secondary socialization refers to the process of learning that is the appropriate behavior as a member of a smaller group within the larger society. Basically, it is the behavioral patterns reinforced by socializing agents of society. Secondary socialization takes place outside the home. Schools require very different behavior from the home, and Children must act according to new rules. New teachers have to act in a way that is different from pupils and learn the new rules from people around them. Secondary Socialization is usually associated with teenagers and adults, and involves smaller changes than those occurring in primary socialization.

SELF-ASKING QUESTION

1. How would you differentiate between primary and secondary socialization?

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1.6 Stages of Socialization:

Socialization means development of an individual as per the approved rules and norms of society. It does just happen. It is a continuous and gradual process. Like other process of human development, socialization follows a direction and pattern. As such, it take place through some stages or phases. Psychologists tried to analyze the process of social training of an individual on the basis of their theories. Some of them are discussed here-

A. Stages of Socialization according to George Herbert Mead:

According to the American psychologist George Herbert Mead (1934) the self represents the sum total of people's conscious perception of their identity as distinct from others. Mead's theory of self was shaped by his overall view of socialization as a lifelong process. According to Mead, the self is composed of two parts, the 'I' and the 'me'. The 'I' is the person's response to other people and to society at large; the 'me' is a self-concept that consists of how significant others – that is, relatives and friends – see the person. The 'I' thinks about and reacts to the 'me' as well as to other people.

According to Mead, the process of forming the self of an individual occurs in *three distinct stages*.

First Stage: Imitation:

The first is imitation. In this stage children copy the behaviour of adults without understanding it. A little boy might help his parents vacuum the floor by pushing a toy vacuum cleaner or even a stick around the room.

Second Stage: Play Stage:

During the play stage, children understand behaviours as actual roles – doctor, firefighter, and race-car driver and so on and begin to take on those roles in their play. This shifting from one role to another builds children's ability to give the same meanings to their thoughts and actions that other members of society give them – another important step in the building of a self.

Third Stage: The Game Stage:

During Mead's third stage, the game stage, the child must learn what is expected not just by one other person but by a whole group. On a baseball team, for example, each player follows a set of rules and ideas that are common to the team and to baseball. Children judge their behaviour by standards thought to be held by the "other out there". Following the rules of a game of baseball prepares children to follow the rules of the game of society as expressed in laws and norms. By this stage, children have gained a social identity.

B. Stages of Socialization according to Jean Piaget:

According to Jean Piaget, each stage of cognitive development involves new skills that define the limits of what can be learned. Children pass through these stages in a definite sequence, though not necessarily with the same stage or thoroughness.

The first stage: Sensori Motor Stage (from birth to 2 years)

During this period children develop the ability to hold an image in their minds permanently. Before they reach this stage they might assume that an object ceases to exist when they don't see it.

The second stage: The Preoperational Stage (from 2 to 7 years)

During this period children learn to tell the difference between symbols and their meanings. At the beginning of this stage, children might be upset if someone stepped on a sand castle that represents their own home. By the end of the stage, children understand the difference between symbols and the object they represent.

The third Stage: Concrete Operational Stage (from 7 to 11 years)

During this period children learn to mentally perform certain tasks that they formerly did by hand. For example, if children in this stage are shown a row of six sticks and are asked to get the same number from the nearby stack, they can choose six sticks without having to match each stick in the row to one in the pile. Younger children, who haven't learned the concrete operation of counting, actually line up sticks from the pile next to the ones in the row in order to choose the correct number.

The fourth stage: Formal Operational Stage (from 12 to 15 years)

Adolescents in this stage can consider abstract mathematical, logical and moral problems and reason about the future. Subsequent mental development builds on and elaborates the abilities and skills gained during this stage.

C. Stages of Socialization according to Sigmund Freud:

Oral Stage (0-1 year):

This stage starts at the birth of a child and continues up to one year approximately. The child is dependent on the mother for its physical and emotional needs and before language development takes place, starts interacting with her through different bodily gestures. As time passes, the child responds to the father and other family members when they provide proper care. According to Sigmund Freud, this stage has been called '*primary identification*'.

Anal Stage (1-2 Years):

The anal stage starts after one year of age and continues for two years. From this stage the child learns to be a little independent by doing few simple tasks like keeping his clothes clean and eating. Toilet training is quite important at this stage. Socialization helps the child to be more conscious and participative in the social environment right from this stage. He receives love and in return, learns to love his parents and other members of the family. The ability to distinguish between certain 'right' actions and certain 'wrong' actions gradually begins from this stage. The mother is mainly the socializing agent, sometimes satisfying the child's demands and at other times, resisting other tendencies.

Oedipal Stage (4 –Pre-Adolescence):

This stage starts from the fourth year and continues up to the pre adolescence period. According to Freud, the boy at this stage becomes more attached to the mother (Oedipus complex) and a girl more attached to the father (Electracomplex). At this stage the individual is under considerable social pressure to identify with his sex. Boys are expected to be 'boys' and are appreciated for doing so and girls are appreciated for behaving like 'girls'.

Stage of Adolescence:

The fourth stage starts at adolescence. During this stage, the influence of friends and peer group is very strong and adolescents try to get independent from parental control. The parents continue to monitor their adolescent children's activities and this often leads to conflict between them. They like to play new roles and internalize new behaviour patterns. This is how they get socialized.

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Adult Socialization:

Socialization is a life- long process. A person continues to learn and gain different experiences up to the time of death. An adult learns to take responsibilities in different activities of the society– be it the family or the other social organizations. Socialization at adulthood is somewhat easier than during childhood as an adult develops the ability of reasoning and critical thinking. He can be better motivated to learn new things for improving his own skills to overcome the challenges of life.

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Que. 5: What is gender socialization?

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Que. 6:What are the stages of socialization according to Mead?

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Que. 7: What are the complexes according to Freud?

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1.7 Summing Up:

Coming to the last part of this unit, it can be said that this unit has tried to familiarize you with the process of socialization and its allied concepts. Thus we can summarize the unit as–

- Socialization is a process through which society develops an individual according to its ideals, beliefs and traditions and bestows recognition as social being. It is known as the process of inducting the individual into the social world.
- Socialization has three primary goals-teaching impulse control and developing a conscience, preparing people to perform certain social roles, and cultivating shared sources of meaning and value.

- According to **J.S. Ross** “Socialization is the development of well-being in associates and the growth in their capacity and will to act together.”
- Some of the important characteristics of socialization are- Socialization is a continuous process, Socialization takes place formally and informally, Socialization is a product of interaction of the organism and its environment etc.
- There are some factors which are considered as motivating in the process of socialization such as- Rear and Care, Sympathy and love, Identification, imitation etc.
- The important types of socialization-group socialization, gender socialization, primary and secondary socialization etc.
- Socialization means development of an individual as per the approved rules and norms of society. It does just happen. It is a continuous and gradual process. Psychologists tried to analyze the process of social training of an individual on the basis of their theories.
- Some of the important analysis was done by George Herbert Mead, Jean Piaget, and Freud.

1.8 Questions and Exercises:

1. Define socialization. Discuss the essential characteristics of socialization.
2. What are the factors that contribute towards the process of socialization?
3. Explain the types of socialization.
4. Discuss the stages of socialization as analyzed by Mead and Freud.

1.9 References and Suggested Readings:

1. Bhatia, K. K. (2013): *Sociological Foundations of Education*, New Delhi: Kalyani Publishers.
2. C.N. Shankar Rao (2015): *Sociology-Principles of sociology with an introduction to social thought*, Ram Nagar, New Delhi: S. Chand & Company Ltd.

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4. Saikia, Polee (2019) *Sociological Foundations of Education*, DVS Publishers, Panbazar, Guwahati
5. Mahanta N.N: *Foundation of Education*, ManiManik Prakash, Panbazar, Ghy
6. Mathur, S. S. (2014): *A Sociological Approach to Indian Education*, Agra: Vinod PustakMandir.

1.10 Answer to Check Your Progress:

Answer to question 1:

The term socialization refers to the process of interaction through which the growing individual learns the habits, attitudes, values and beliefs of the social group into which he has been born. As such it is the process by which human infants begin to acquire the skills necessary to perform as a functioning member of their society, and is the most influential learning process one can experience.

Answer to question 2:

Socialization has *three primary goals*:

1. Teaching impulse control and developing a conscience,
2. Preparing people to perform certain social roles, and
3. Cultivating shared sources of meaning and value.

Answer to question 3:

W.F. Ogburn, “Socialization is the process by which the individual learns to conform to the norms of the group.”

Answer to question 4:

Socialization is an individualized process because we know that individual difference is a natural fact. These individual differences arise because each child is controlled by a unique combination of hereditary endowment and environmental factors. All children therefore do not reach the same point of at the same socialization age. It differs from child to child.

Answer to question 5:

Gender socialization refers to the learning of behavior and attitudes considered appropriate for a given sex. Boys learn to be boys and girls learn to be girls. This “learning” happens by way of many different agents of socialization.

Answer to question 6:

According to Mead, the process of forming the self of an individual occurs in *three distinct stages*.

First Stage: Imitation

Second Stage: Play Stage

Third Stage: The Game Stage

Answer to question 7:

According to Freud, during the oedipal stage, the boy becomes more attached to the mother, that complex is called the Oedipus complex and a girl more attached to the father that is called the Electra complex.

Answer to SAQ 1:

There are some factors which are considered as motivating in the process of socialization. Such as-

- 1. Rear and Care:** Careful upbringing of the child is very helpful in the process of socialization.
- 2. Sympathy and Love:** Drastic changes can be brought in the child by sympathy and love. If a child is treated sympathetically and lovingly by his parents, family members and relatives, he will behave with others in the same manner.
- 3. Co-operation:** Co-operation given to the child creates “we feeling” in him. This leads to development of various socially approved behaviors in them.

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4. **Forbidding:** Many time children are easily deviated from his/her normal behavior due to various environmental factors including peer influence. As such, for proper socialization children should be forbidden to do something so that he may not develop undesirable tendencies in him.

Answer to SAQ 2:

Difference between primary and secondary socialization is that–

Primary socialization takes place early in life, as a child and adolescent. Primary socialization for a child is very important because it sets the ground work for all future socialization. Whereas, Secondary socialization refers to the socialization that takes place throughout one's life, both as a child and as one encounters new groups that require additional socialization.

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UNIT-2

AGENTS OF SOCIALIZATION

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Unit Structure:

- 2.1 Introduction
- 2.2 Objectives
- 2.3 Agents of Socialization
 - 2.3.1 Family
 - 2.3.2 School
 - 2.3.2.1 Role of the Teacher in Socialization
 - 2.3.3 Peer Group
 - 2.3.4 State and Religion
- 2.4 Importance of Socialization
- 2.5 School as a Social System
- 2.6 Summing Up
- 2.7 Questions and Exercises
- 2.8 References and Suggested Readings
- 2.9 Answer to Check Your Progress

2.1 Introduction:

In the proceeding unit, you have come across the concept, types and stages of socialization, which is a process of social training. Through socialization, an individual is transformed to social being from biological being. It is a continuous process of life. Socialization not only helps in the maintenance and preservation of social values and norms but it is the process through which values and norms are transmitted from one generation to another generation as such it is a life-long process. Socialization does not just happen. It happens through some mediums. These mediums are considered as the agents. There are various agencies of socialization which make the process successful as well as meaningful one. Some of the important agents of socialization are discussed in this unit. Moreover, this unit will deal with the importance of socialization and reflect on school as a social system.

2.2 Objectives:

After going through this unit you will be able to–

- *understand* the importance of agents of socialization such as-family, school, peer group, state and religion,
- *realize* the importance of socialization process,
- *analyze* the school as a social system.

2.3 Agents of Socialization:

Through the earlier discussion, you are introduced with the concept of socialization. It is a process through individual being is transformed into social being. The other name of this process is social learning, through which individuals learn to acquire and adopt the social norms and behave accordingly. It is an abstract concept of social living. According to H. T. Majumdar, “Socialization as the process whereby original nature is transformed into human nature and the individual into person.” There are some means through which socialization process undergoes. These means are known as agent of socialization. The institutions which can impress social norms upon an individual are known as agents of socialization. They act as an agent to meet the goal of socializing people. In a society or community, there are various sources or means which perform active role in the very process. But among them, the prominent are –Family, School, Peer Group, State, Society, and Religious Institution. The following sub-section of this unit will cover these agents of socialization.

2.3.1 Family:

It is the first and the most important agency of socialization. There are two sources of child’s socialization. The first includes those who have authority over him and the second are those who are equal in authority to him. The first category may include parents, teachers, and elderly persons. The second one includes the playmates, the friends and the fellows in the club. His training varies in content and significance accordingly as acquired from one or the other source. In one category is the relationship of constraint, in the other it is that of co-operation.

The parents therefore are the first persons who socialize the child. They are not only closely related to him in the family system but physically also they are more near to the child than others. The mother is the first of the parents who brings the process of socialization. Child spends maximum period of time in his family. In the family child comes in contact with his parents, brothers, sisters, uncles, aunties, cousins, grandparents etc. and he learns many habits and behavior from them. Love, sympathy, Co-operation, consideration and so many qualities are learnt by them from the family first. Children also learn many ideals, customs and traditions from the family first. Actually family is the first school and mother is his/her most loving teacher.

Though socialization is a life-long process, its impact is remarkable during the childhood period. According to **Freud** and other psychoanalysts also the impressions made upon the child's mind at home determine the child's personality as an adult in childhood, the child's mind is very flexible and susceptible to any influence. The parents love for the child makes a deep impression on him. The role of the siblings is also important for the socialization process of a child. His/her personality is also influenced greatly by the behavior of his brothers/sisters towards him.

As an agency of socialization of the children, Family performs the following functions –

- Family is the institution into which each individual is born. It is one of the most significant primary groups. This is the group which have innumerable influence on individual and in shaping his attitude and behavior patterns.
- It is the only institution which is an agency for child rearing and for introducing the child to the culture of its society.
- Family provides intimate and face to face association and interaction for the child which is more educative than any other interaction.
- Family helps in shaping the basic character structure of culture and forming the child's personality.
- It satisfies most of the needs of the child and provides emotional experience which help to learn the activities of society.

Space for Learner

- The family has informal control over its members. Family being a mini society acts as a transmission belt between the individual and society.
- Family serves as the prime agency of socialization as it fulfils all the needs of the children.
- The family provides the greatest possible opportunity to the child for establishing the rapport with the other members of the society.
- Child learns sympathy, cooperation, honesty, truth, justice, feeling of love and many other social and human values at home. When they are formerly taught in schools it becomes very easy for him to understand the practice them.

2.3.2 School:

Education is considered as the prime factor of socialization of the children and for the matter of that School, School is a great socializing factor. Education is of great importance in socialization. A well-planned education can produce socialized persons. The school is said to be next to the family in terms of importance as far as socialization is concerned. The school combines the formal e.g. classroom teaching, fines caning, suspension expulsions official mention, prizes) and informal e.g. peer group influences/pressure approaches in its socializing function. The native endowment is the most fundamental equipment of an individual. Every child comes to this world with certain heredity traits. These traits are modified due to the influence of the society. Each individual is influenced by the society in which they develop. But for socialization not only the presence of native endowments and the society are required but also there must be opportunities for the individual to come contact with the other member of the society and to be influenced by them. This opportunity is provided to the individual by the school, the specialized formal agency of education. In school, situations are created systematically for interactions within a group and between the groups and hence socialization is achieved in systematic manner.

In the school the child is socialized to the point of communicating with others, of playing co-operatively, of showing sympathy and beginning to recognize the rights of others and of learning some control over infinite

emotional out bursts. Thus after the family, the child is exposed to the school which also influences him. School is nothing less than a miniature society to him.

The school socializes the children as follows—

- School socializes the children by giving them the opportunities to manifest their qualities, instincts, drives and motives and helps to develop his personality.
- School socializes the children by imparting socially desirable knowledge and skill and providing socially desirable experiences.
- By initiating social interaction in various social situations, school develops social concern between students with students of different ages, students with staff, staff with staff, and school community with society outside the school.
- Schools play important role in the socialization process by providing social control through a body of rules, regulations, moral and social value, through social and moral studies and through social discipline.
- By preparing pupils for different roles, school can develops the social qualities in children.
- By developing the quality of good citizenship, increasing their social competitiveness, increasing their initiative and independence, school can socializes the children.
- Rewards and punishment and teacher's behavior and reaction in the school also play significant role in the process of socialization of the children.
- The cultural heritage of the society is preserved through the school and the school performs the function of transmission of information to the individual.
- The schools not only help the growing child in learning language and other subjects but also instill the concept of time, discipline, team work, cooperation and competition

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- School offers young children opportunities for intellectual, emotional and social growth. Thus education can be influential in promoting new values and stimulating adaptation of changing conditions.
- Informally and especially through social clubs, the school enables the child to learn a number of other social roles and skills which are also important for his/her overall development as a member of society. For example, norms of society, responsibility, social obligation etc.
- School is considered as a social subsystem, as such, if a child is adjusted in the school he is likely to adjust in the society too.

STOP TO CONSIDER

There are two sources of child’s socialization-

The *first* includes those who have authority over him.

The *second* are those who are equal in authority to him.

The first category may include parents, teachers, and elderly persons.

The second one includes the playmates, the friends and the fellows in the club.

SELF-ASKING QUESTION

1. Why is school considered as great socializing factor?

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2.3.2.1 Role of the Teacher in Socialization:

While discussing the role of school as an agency of socialization process we cannot deny the importance of the teacher. Teacher is the most important figure after parents with whom child identifies himself very much and gives him the most weight age in the society. It is the teacher who plays

and bears the most significant responsibility of upbringing the children/students according to society's expectation and norms. We witness certain cases that if a children deviates from the social or normal behavior, his education and training is blamed first. As such, training provided by the teachers is reflected through the behavior displayed by the children in different circumstances of life. For the children the teachers' personality and character provide a model which students/ children strive to copy. Teacher plays the following roles in the process of socialization—

- Teacher acquaints the children with the cultural heritage of the country along with relevant culture and sub-cultures.
- Teacher teaches social ideals and norms by organizing various co-curricular activities for the children.
- Teachers teach the students the various school subjects in the social context so that they may understand the demand of the society as well.
- Through the curriculum, the teacher imparts Knowledge of basic intellectual skills such as reading, writing, verbal expression, quantitative and other cognitive abilities and allows students to communicate with each other according to positions in society.
- Teacher treats all children equally. He does not discriminate them on the basis of their castes, creeds. In this way every idea given by the teacher becomes acceptable to the children.
- Teacher provides maximum opportunities of interaction to children belonging to different strata of society.
- Teachers enable children to respect the culture of their society.
- Teacher teaches the laws, traditions and norms of the community.
- Teachers widen the mental horizons of pupils and teach them new ways of looking at themselves and their society.

This proves that teacher is an important socializing agent. The teacher can put the socializing influences on his pupils/children by making the school he/she is likely to adjust in the society too.

Qualities of Teachers as a good socializing Agent:

The above discussions have clearly stated the role of teacher in socialization of a child. Children often imitates as such the teacher must form an ideal personality to be followed by his/her students. For proper socialization of the children, the teachers must have some qualities which enable them not only to cope up with the changing social role but also to impart time and need based social training. Some of the qualities are mentioned here—

- 1. The teacher must be emotionally balanced:** A teacher must know how to handle individual emotions first and then only he/she is able develop trust and belongingness to school and to the children. This belonging helps the teacher to impart social education to the children.
- 2. A teacher must have Sound Knowledge of Psychology and Child Development:** We know that no two child are alike, their rate of learning differs from child to child. As such child may differ from acquiring the social training as per their individual rate of perception and learning. Teacher should try and understand the psychology of the child, his/her needs, family background, culture from which s/he comes, learning style, his/her individual needs and how can a teacher give them a homely environment, lots of love, care and belongingness.
- 3. Teacher should understand the individual needs of the children:** Each child is gifted with a different ability and different need. It is up to a teacher to identify and bloom it. For example, some child can be a quiet, some impulsive, some can be a lonely child, some with high IQ and some with low. But being a quiet child she/he might be very creative. The teacher should target the particular behaviors she wants to strengthen in each individual child and enables them to adjust with the social circumstances.
- 4. Teacher should be socially aware:** Teacher should be first make himself socially aware about the entire social phenomenon so as to help the children to behave and act in accordance of society's need and norms. Without social awareness, a teacher fails to be good socializing agent.
- 5. Teacher should develop relationship with and among children:** To socialize the children, first and foremost the teacher should develop

relationship individually with every child. The attachment building with children gives them a sense of safety, security and trust which is very important for their social development. Then to develop social relationship and for social learning, group tasks should be given to them so that they learn helping and believing each other, sharing, cooperation etc.

6. **Teacher should enable the children to solve problem and make decision:** One of the most important task performed by the teacher in the process of socialization is to help the children to be socially and individually aware. This awareness enables them to recognize their potentialities which aids in solving various day-to-day problem and making decision as an individual and social being.
7. **Teacher must make rapport with parents:** We know that parents are the most influential socializing agents. Most of the social learning is acquired from the parents. For proper socialization, the teacher should be aware of the personal conditions or home environment of each child. Then only she will be able to do better with children. The teachers should inform the parents about the skills being taught to their children so that they can take care of it at their respective homes. They should be informed about their daily schedules and routines so the parental involvement is there in the learning of children.

STOP TO CONSIDER

For proper socialization of the children, the teachers must have some qualities which enables them not only to cope up with the changing social role but also to impart time and need based social training, such as-emotional balance, adequate knowledge of child psychology, good rapport both with parents and teachers etc.

2.3.3 Peer Group:

No child likes to be confined at home. He visits the houses of his friends and age mates and invites them to his home also. He talks to them, plays with them and walks with them in the neighborhood and local markets. All these interactions help the child to get socialized. Moreover, it is a well-

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known fact that childhood is considered as the gang period as they are very much influenced and affected by the group members. Thus peer group play a very important role in the socialization of the children. The child acquires something from his friends and playmates, which he cannot acquire from parents.

Generally peer group is that group in which most members are the equal ages and of similar social status. People of all age levels form peer group of their own. It is mentionable here that while the world of the very young child is largely that of the parents and the home, older children and youth live in the dual world of their peers and adult. While a child at primary school level is strongly family oriented, the high school student is much more influenced by his peer-group. Therefore peer-group plays a very important role at this level of education i.e. the adolescence by co- curricular activities, sports and other school influences.

The roles of peer group are as follows—

- Peer group are important to the young in the development of the self.
- The relation between the child and his playmates is one of equality. It is based on co-operation and mutual understanding.
- Peer groups also help the children in the learning of culture of the society, to which they belong through exchange of cultural and social experiences.
- Peer group help the young people to become independent in their thoughts and decisions.
- The peer group represents a distinctive sub-culture in the society.
- The peer group provides sex education in many cases at the level of adolescence. Therefore it is considered as significant.
- It assists the individual children or adolescents in the process of self-identification and self-discovery.
- Peer-group provides training in leadership as well as in following and cooperating with the leader of the group which develops the quality of co-operation, we-feeling in them.

The peer group is primarily an activity group which operates through social, recreational and vocational activities. As social consciousness develops at the adolescence period, at this stage, children like to spend maximum time with their peers. So, we can say that peer-groups during adolescence are very significant and they play motivating role in the socialization process.

2.3.4 State and Religion:

This is again one another important agency of socialization. The state plays a very crucial role in socializing its citizens. The role of community can be visualized as similar to the role of state in respect to the process of socialization. State is a powerful super structure of the society as a whole whose laws have to be abided by all its members without question. Social scientists have increasingly recognized the importance of the state as an agent of socialization because of its growing impact on the life cycle. The protective functions, which were previously performed by family members, have steadily been taken over by outside agencies such as hospitals, health clinics and insurance companies. Thus, the state has become a provider of child care, which gives it a new and direct role in the socialization of infants and young children. There are four fundamental elements necessarily found in a state.

- **Territory**- State has well defined territory where its members live in and this territory cannot change in the short run.
- **Population**- A piece of land without any population cannot be termed as state.
- **Government**- A state has a government also. This government frames laws for its people to bring about peace in the society.
- **Sovereignty**- The members belonging to the same territory will run the government, otherwise it will cease to be a state. It will rather be a colony.

On the basis of this, one can realize the importance of state in the process of socialization. The child of today is considered to be the future citizen of tomorrow. They will have to realize the importance of a nation and bear the responsibility to develop it. Therefore they must abide by its

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rules. The following points will focus on state as an agency of socializing the child—

- State is considered to be the wider social group with goal in common. Children are the part of this group.
- State makes laws for the people and lays down the modes of conduct expected of them.
- The people have compulsorily to obey the laws set by state. If netizen fail to adjust their behavior in accordance with laws of the state they may be punished for such failure. Thus, the state also moulds our behaviour.
- The rules regulations formed by the state influence the behavior of the child.
- The discipline, control maintained by the state gives the child a lesson of peace.
- They are encouraged to maintain peace and solidarity as a social being in the wider social group.
- The observation of various Days of National and International importance develop a concern and feeling of patriotism towards the country, to which they belong.
- The various educational as well social programme adopted by the state proves as a motivator for the child in initiating the various social qualities like- sympathy, empathy, co-operation and brotherhood.
- The nature of the culture of the state is the best teacher for the child in making them aware of the culture.
- The culture of the state also helps in development the quality of cultural tolerance among the children. A state may be the composite of various cultures. The composite nature of the culture of a state teaches the children to respect the culture of others as well as to make an exchange.

By regulating the life cycle to some degree, the state shapes the socialization process by influencing our views of appropriate behavior at particular ages.

Religion:

In the narrow sense religion means belief in and practice of rituals, participation in religious ceremonies and performing time bound prayers at religious places. Individual considers his own religion only right and discards other religious and its rituals in too. Religion is considered to be the best teachers of individual as it paves their way of self-development as well as it is the religion which maintains a control upon people. According to **Gisbert**, “Religion is the dynamic beliefs in a submission to God or Gods on whom man feels dependent.”

You all have your own religious values which controls you, motivate you and inspire to find divinity in you. Therefore, religion is considered as one of the most important agent of social control. Religion exerts great influence on the views of person. It has significant role in organizing and directing social life. In a simple word, it can be said that, the beliefs developed by the children from their home. The religious views followed by the family influence the life of the children. They are motivated, encouraged to follow certain kinds of social norms and standards as per the religion of the family. Religion becomes the faith of the children.

Religion is also considered as communal dimension of a society. As an integrative social force, religion shapes collective belief into collective identity. All the religious rituals like-weeding, child dedication, child rearing rituals, burial affect a lot on the lives of the children because in all of them they are actively involved. The moral values developed by the child can be considered as the product of the religion. Besides the other aspects of one’s life style like his language, dressing, manner all are influenced by the religion of the child. Thus, it is made clear to you that religion plays a very crucial role in the socialization process of the child. It teaches them to develop and acquire all the socio-cultural norms to lead his social life in accordance with the society. The life style or the culture of an individual which encompasses all the beliefs, tradition, language of an individual are the gift for an individual provided by his/her religion. Religion is the collection of cultural system, belief system and worldviews that relate humanity to spirituality and moral values.

On the basis of the above discussion, the following fact regarding Religion in terms of Socialization can be derived—

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- Religion is considered to be the best teachers of individual as it paves their way of self-development.
- Religion exerts great influence on the views of person.
- Religion not only makes people religious but socializes them into the secular order
- Religion is the collection of cultural system, belief system and worldviews that relate humanity to spirituality and moral values.
- Religion is the means which purifies the biological mind of the children.
- It provides them the inspiration and motivation to acquaint the socio-cultural values.
- It helps to develop the various social virtues which not only socializes them but also paves their way for self-realization.
- The life style or the culture of an individual which encompasses all the beliefs, tradition, language of individual are the gift for an individual provided by his/her religion.
- Religion shapes collective belief into collective identity.

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Que. 1: What is the view of Freud on role of family on child's Socialization?

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Que. 2: State two roles of teachers in socialization of children.

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Que. 3: What are the fundamental elements necessarily found in a state?

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2.4 Importance of Socialization:

Socialization simply means social learning. It is a process through which an individual with all his/her biological needs is transformed and shaped to a social being as individual cannot live without society. The above discussions have clarified your concept about socialization. Along with this, it is also essential for you all to realize how much is socialization important? Without socialization, we cannot expect socially approved behavior from an individual. Today's children are the future citizen. As such, to form a healthy society for future, we need good human resources. Socialization makes this happen. It molds the personality of an individual in becoming a responsible member of the society. It is through socialization that he learns the basic cultural patterns of the society that he lives in. It is a part of society and social life. Thus the importance of socialization can hardly be exaggerated.

The following points may be helpful for you to realize the importance of socialization—

- ❖ **Socialization transforms biological man into social being:** Man is born a biological being like any other animal. But it is through the process of socialization he becomes social. Constant social training helps him to conform to the norms and values of his society.
- ❖ **Socialization helps in the transmission of culture:** Culture is always transmitted from one generation to another through socialization. A child learns about his own culture from his parents, school and other social organizations. Culture is preserved through socialization only.
- ❖ **Socialization helps in development of personality:** Personality development is the motto of any educational system. Socialization helps in the process of development of personality. To build a healthy personality, one has to acquire all developmental characteristics including social aspect. Without a social structure no man can mould his personality. Socialization prepares him to constantly adjust to the social environment and live in such a way as approved by the society.

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- ❖ **Socialization shapes an individual's life:** A man is social by nature. To live a healthy and happy life, one has to adjust to the social circumstances and be able to solve all social issues. Socialization enables an individual to shape his/her life by eradicating all social issues.
- ❖ **Socialization develops social awareness:** The social training received from different agents enables a man to be socially aware of his roles in society, his duty and responsibilities as well as his rights.
- ❖ **Socialization develops proper social attitude and attributes in man:** An individual has to play multiple roles in his life-in his family, school, workplace or other social organizations. Socialization helps the individual to develop proper attitudes towards the person he is obliged to as well as it develops different social attributes like co-operation, sympathy, empathy while dealing with these people.
- ❖ **Socialization helps to maintain social discipline:** When an individual gets proper social training, he/she automatically lives a disciplined life. He/she becomes very clear about the objectives of life and lives according to the social expectations. This leads in maintenance of social discipline.
- ❖ **Socialization develops social skills:** Socialization facilitates an individual's with all social skills and positive attitudes and behaviour vital for mental and social well-being.
- ❖ **Socialization makes the society stable:** It is through socialization that an individual is trained to adapt to the social order. Each new generation carries forward the social structure set up by the preceding one with modifications and changes. This is how the stability of the social order is maintained.

SELF-ASKING QUESTION

2. Why is Socialization important?

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2.5 School as a Social System:

In this unit, we have discussed about the process of socialization and various agents which makes the process successful. Among the different agents of socialization, School is considered the most significant one. Here, we will not repeat school as an agent or what school is? Rather, here we are going to discuss school as a social system. By studying the course, sociological foundation of Education, you have developed so far a clear idea about society and its educational significance. Society is the base of a balanced life of an individual. Man, being a social animal, cannot live in isolation or separation from the other members of the group. All his activities, performance are judged and evaluated in terms of the social goals. As a member of the wider social group, every individual are responsible to contribute towards the betterment of the society. Family as we have discussed above is the primary and smallest unit of society. School is one another but most crucial unit of society followed by family. Here you will be given an idea about school as a social system-

- **School is the Miniature Society**

We often use this in our regular classroom discussion or general conversation. But what is the actual meaning of School as a miniature society? The word “miniature” is used to refer small or mini. Thus, school is considered a mini society. There is no difference between school and society except the size. Society is a wide complex of social interaction, while school is the small or mini hub of social contact. You should remind the “social relationship” and “social contact” is the two integral part of society. School is characterized by these two features. In a school children get ample opportunity to make social interaction and contact with each other and among the different members of the school.

- **Centre of Acquiring Social Values**

It is the school which through its varied academic and non-academic programme and plan imparts education on value. They are made to realize how the values are important in one’s life.

- **Centre of Practicing Social Behavior**

A school is signified by the law of “Unity in Diversity”. It is hub of numbers of social being belonging to different socio-cultural groups. Thus, children are made to practice their social behaviour by interacting with the different culture. They learn to make use and develop various social and moral values through the various curricular and co-curricular activities.

- **Platform for Representation of Culture**

By practicing one’s own social behavior and values, the child get the privileged to present their own culture. As well as they are able to make cultural exchange, which is the basis of bringing social-change.

- **Social Tolerance**

Through the exchange of culture, the children not only learn new ways of lives and are acquainted with new social pattern, but they also develop the power of tolerance and learn to give respect to the other culture.

- **Social Order**

The social structure set up by the school is one of the important components of social system. The students and teachers abide by the social order as prescribed by the school.

On account of this above discussion, we can rightly say that school is a social system which aims at inculcating social values in the children by proving a social environment inside and outside the school and to produce effective and educated social being.

2.6 Summing Up:

Coming to the last part of this unit, it can be said that this unit has tried to familiarize you with the agents of socialization and its importance. Thus we can summarize the unit as-

- There are some means through which socialization process undergoes. These means are known as agent of socialization. The institutions which can impress social norms upon an individual are known as agents of socialization.

- The parents are the first persons who socialize the child. They are not only closely related to him in the family system but physically also they are more near to the child than others.
- Education is of great importance in socialization. A well-planned education can produce socialized persons. The school is said to be next to the family in terms of importance as far as socialization is concerned.
- Teacher is the most important figure after parents with whom child identifies himself very much and gives him the most weight age in the society. It is the teacher who plays and bears the most significant responsibility of upbringing the children/students according to society's expectation and norms.
- Peer group play a very important role in the socialization of the children. The child acquires something from his friends and playmates, which he cannot acquire from parents.
- Social scientists have increasingly recognized the importance of the state as an agent of socialization because of its growing impact on the life cycle.
- Religion is considered as one of the most important agent of social control. Religion exerts great influence on the views of person. It has significant role in organizing and directing social life.
- Socialization is important as without socialization, we cannot expect socially approved behavior from an individual. Today's children are the future citizen. As such, to form a healthy society for future, we need good human resources. Socialization makes this happen.
- School is a social system which aims at inculcating social values in the children by proving a social environment inside and outside the school and to produce effective and educated social being.

2.7 Questions and Exercises:

1. What is meant by agents of socialization?
2. Discuss the school and family as agents of socialization.

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3. Why is peer group considered as a powerful agent of socialization?
4. Discuss the importance of socialization from your own perspectives.
5. Elaborate the concept of school as social system.

2.8 References and Suggested Readings:

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2.9 Answer to Check Your Progress:

Answer to question 1:

According to **Freud** and other psychoanalysts also the impressions made upon the child's mind at home determine the child's personality as an adult in childhood, the child's mind is very flexible and susceptible to any influence. The parents love for the child makes a deep impression on him. The role of the siblings is also important for the socialization process of a child.

Answer to question 2:

Two roles of teachers in socialization of children are—

- Teacher acquaints the children with the cultural heritage of the country along with relevant culture and sub-cultures.
- Teacher teaches social ideals and norms by organizing various co-curricular activities for the children.

Answer to question 3:

There are four fundamental elements necessarily found in a state.

- **Territory**- State has well defined territory where its members live in and this territory cannot change in the short run.
- **Population**- A piece of land without any population cannot be termed as state.
- **Government**- A state has a government also. This government frames laws for its people to bring about peace in the society.
- **Sovereignty**- The members belonging to the same territory will run the government, otherwise it will cease to be a state. It will rather be a colony.

Answer to SAQ 1:

School is a great socializing factor because; education is of great importance in socialization. A well-planned education can produce socialized persons. The school is said to be next to the family in terms of importance as far as socialization is concerned. The school combines the formal e.g. classroom teaching, fines caning, suspension expulsions official mention, prizes) and informal e.g. peer group influences/ pressure approaches in its socializing function.

Answer to SAQ 2:

Socialization is important because-

- ❖ **Socialization transforms biological man into social being:** Man is born a biological being like any other animal. But it is through the process of socialization he becomes social. Constant social training helps him to conform to the norms and values of his society.
- ❖ **Socialization helps in the transmission of culture:** Culture is always transmitted from one generation to another through socialization. A child learns about his own culture from his parents, school and other social organizations. Culture is preserved through socialization only.

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UNIT- 3

SOCIAL STRATIFICATION AND SOCIAL MOBILITY

Unit Structure:

- 3.1 Introduction
- 3.2 Objectives
- 3.3 Concept and Definition of Social Stratification
 - 3.3.1 Nature of Social Stratification
 - 3.3.2 Types of Social Stratification
- 3.4 Concept and Definition of Social Mobility
 - 3.4.1 Nature of Social Mobility
 - 3.4.2 Types of Social Mobility
- 3.5 Summing Up
- 3.6 Questions and Exercises
- 3.7 References and Suggested Readings

3.1 Introduction:

All societies differentiate their members in terms of roles and all societies evaluate their roles differently. Some roles are regarded as more important or socially more valuable than others. The person who performs the more highly esteemed roles are rewarded more highly. When groups are ranked with some degree of performance, there is stratification.

Social mobility refers to the movement of individuals from one position or status to another. People are normally recognized through the statuses they occupy and the roles they enact. Not only the society is dynamic but also the individuals.

3.2 Objectives:

After the discussion of this unit, the learner will be able to—

- *define* and understand the concepts of social stratification,

- *understand* the nature and characteristics of social stratification,
- *identify* the types of social stratification,
- *define* and understand the concepts of social mobility,
- *understand* the nature and characteristics of social mobility,
- *identify* the types of social mobility.

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3.3 Concept & Definition of Social Stratification:

Social stratification is the division of society in permanent groups or categories linked with each other. It is this relationship which determines the position that the group and the individuals there in contained will occupy the place in society, while the same time they will largely decide whether the groups are social classes, castes, ranks or ethical groups. The process by which individuals and groups are ranked in an enduring hierarchy of status is known as stratification. Thus, stratification simply a process of interaction of differentiation whereby some people come to rank higher than others.

According to Ogburn and Nimkoff – “The process by which individuals and groups are ranked in a more or less enduring hierarchy of status is known as stratification.”

3.3.1 Nature of Social Stratification:

- Social stratification is social; it does not represent biologically caused inequalities.
- Social stratification is in diverse forms; the stratification system has never been uniformed in all the societies.
- Social inequality is another important characteristic of social stratification.
- Social stratification is consequential; the stratification system has its own consequences.

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q.1. Define concept of social stratification.

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Q.2. Discuss the nature of social stratification.

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3.3.2 Types of Social Stratification:

There are mainly two types of social stratification—

a) The Social Class:

Social class is a principal type of social stratification. It is almost found in all the civilized, industrialised, and literate societies of the world. Social Class is an agency of social mobility. A social class is a category or group of persons having a definite status in society, which permanently determines their relations to other groups.

According to Max Weber: “Social Classes are aggregate of individuals who have the same opportunities of acquiring goods, the same exhibited standards of living.”

b) The Caste System:

The caste system is a special type of social stratification found mostly in ancient and modern India, but elements of it and even well-developed systems of it are found in various parts of the world. The word ‘Caste’ is derived from the Spanish word ‘Casta’ means ‘breed,’ ‘strain’ or some complex of hereditary qualities. It was applied by the Portuguese to the Indian institution known by the name of ‘Jati.’ Many attempts have been made to define this institution as it appears in Indian history, but given its manifold aspects and the great variety of forms and elements that it includes, the attempted definitions are more in the line of descriptions or explanations of the caste system. The caste system is closely

connected with the Hindu Philosophy and Religion, custom and tradition, marriage and family, morals and manners, food and dress habits, occupations, and hobbies etc.

According to A.W. Green, “Caste is a system of stratification in which mobility up and down the status ladder, at least ideally may not occur.”

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STOP TO CONSIDER

Social Class system is an open and universal system whereas social caste system is a close and system.

Social class system is a simple system as there are mainly three category- upper, middle, and lower, whereas caste system is a complex system for example in India, there are more than 2800 caste and sub-caste are existing are found.

3.4 Concept and Definition of Social Mobility:

Men are normally engaged in endless endeavour to enhance or improve their statuses in the society, move from lower position to the higher position, secure superior job to inferior one. For various reason also people of higher status and position may also be forced to come down to a lower status and position. Thus, people in society continue to move up & down in the status scale. This movement is called ‘social mobility’.

According to Cecil Headrick, “Social mobility is the movement of person from social group to social group.”

3.4.1 Nature of Social Mobility:

- Social mobility is a social process
- Social mobility implies movement of people from one position to another in society.
- Social mobility implies movement of people in their status scale.
- Social mobility may be upward or downward.

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS

Q.3. Define concept of social mobility.

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Q.4. Discuss the nature of social mobility.

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3.4.2 Types of Social Mobility:

Social mobility can be classified as—

i) Vertical Social Mobility: Vertical social mobility refers to the movement of people or groups from one status to another. It involves changes in class, occupation, or power. For e.g., the movement of people from the poor class to the middle class, from the occupation of the bank clerks to the managerial post, from the power position of the opposition to that of the ruling class etc.

ii) Horizontal Social Mobility: Horizontal social mobility is a change in position without the change in status. It indicates a change in position, within the range of the same status. For e.g., an engineer working in a factory may resign from his job and join another factory as an engineer and may work in more or less the same capacity. Similarly, a teacher may leave one school to join another as a teacher etc.

iii) Inter-Generational Mobility: This is usually seen as the most important form of mobility today, where the son or daughter has a different social position higher or lower than that of the parents. For e.g., a farmer's daughter might train to become a teacher or she may achieve another occupation.

iv) Intra-Generational Mobility: This is another important type of mobility, where an individual changes his or her social position during a career. For e.g., a fourth-grade employee may be promoted to the officer's category based on his merits.

STOP TO CONSIDER

Social mobility is a social process. Social mobility implies movement of people from one position to another in society. Social mobility can be classified as different categories like vertical social mobility, horizontal social mobility, Inter –generational mobility and Intra- generational mobility etc.

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3.5 Summing Up:

- Social stratification is the division of society in permanent groups or categories linked with each other. It is these relationship which determine the position that the group and the individuals there in contained will occupy the place in society, while at the same time they will largely decide whether the groups are social classes, castes, ranks or ethical groups.
- Social stratification is mainly of two type- social class system and social caste system.
- Men are normally engaged in endless endeavour to enhance or improve their statuses in the society, move from lower position to the higher position, secure superior job to inferior ones. For various reason people of higher status and position may also be forced to come down to a lower status and position. Thus, people in society continue to move up & down in the status scale. This movement is called ‘social mobility’.
- Social mobility can be classified as- I) Vertical social mobility and Horizontal social mobility, II) Inter-generational and Intra-generational mobility.

3.6 Questions and Exercises:

- **Short answer questions:**

1. What do you mean by social stratification? State its types.
2. What do you mean by social mobility? State its types.

- **Long answer questions:**

1. Define social stratification. Mention the nature of social stratification.
2. Define social mobility. Mention the nature of social mobility.
3. Explain the types of social stratification. Differentiate between social class system and social caste system.
4. Explain the different types of social mobility.
5. Discuss the relationship between social stratification and social mobility.

3.7 References and Suggested Readings:

1. Brown F. J. (1961) “*Educational Sociology*” Second Edition, Prentice- Hall, INC, Englewood Cliffs, N.J. Charles E. Tuttle Company, Tokyo
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UNIT 4

RELATIONSHIP OF EDUCATION WITH SOCIAL STRATIFICATION AND SOCIAL MOBILITY

Unit Structure:

- 4.1 Introduction
- 4.2 Objectives
- 4.3 Social Stratification and Social Mobility
- 4.4 Relationship between Education and Social Stratification
- 4.5 Relationship between Education and Social Mobility
- 4.6 Summing Up
- 4.7 Questions and Exercises
- 4.8 References and Suggested Readings

4.1 Introduction:

Education is the process of human empowerment. It is the only process which starts at the time of conception and continued till death. Education has brought about phenomenal changes in every aspect of a man's life. The idea of education is not merely to impart knowledge to the pupils in some subjects but to develop in him those habits and attitudes with which he may success fully face the future. It stands for deliberate instruction or learning to people. At birth human child possesses the potentialities of becoming human. He does not behave in a way according to which he is trained. And it is only education which brings about changes in the behaviour of society and enables every individual to effectively participate in the activities of society and to make positive contribution to the progress of society.

Again, social stratification is the division or gradation of society in permanent groups or categories. In the case of human society differentiation is the law of nature. Human society is not homogeneous but heterogeneous. Men differ from one another in many respects. Hence human society is everywhere stratified. When groups are ranked with some degree of

performance there is always stratification. Thus, social stratification simply can be defined as a process of interaction of differentiation whereby some people come to rank higher than others. This process is universal social process which is complex enough based on age, sex, occupation, personal characteristics, etc.

4.2 Objectives:

After the discussion of this unit, the learner will be able to—

- *understand* the relationship of education with social stratification,
- *understand* the relationship of education with social mobility

4.3 Social Stratification and Social Mobility:

Social stratification and social mobility are interrelated and interdependent. The nature, type, quality, rate and size or importance of social mobility depend on the nature and the type of social stratification. Class and Caste are two main types of social stratification. In both the systems same kind of opportunities are not provided for social mobility. Because, in both the societies the factors that determine the statuses of the individuals differ revolutionary. There is a close link between the way in which individuals obtain their statuses and the nature of social mobility. In the caste system the status is determined by birth. Since, birth cannot be changed, the status which is determined based on birth cannot be changed. Hence, the caste as a form of social stratification does not facilitate vertical social mobility. It is for this reason the caste system is called a 'closed' system. A caste ridden society is one in which social mobility is minimum.

This is usually seen as the most important form of mobility today. There is scope for the improvement of the social status in the class system. In a class system opportunities are provided for social mobility. Here, the status is determined mainly by the education, talents, intelligence, wealth, and achievements of the person. The status is 'achieved' by individual's hard work and attempts. An open class society is one in which social mobility is maximum.

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As the society becomes more and more complex and the life of its members improves, individuals may find better opportunities for the expression of their abilities and talents. But in no society, all the deserving individuals can obtain statuses of their living, desires, and expectations. As Sorokin has pointed out in his book “Social Mobility,” only in an ‘ideal’ society all the individuals get employments and statuses in accordance with their capacities. At the same time, it is not possible to make people confine to their status when once they occupy a status without going away from it or changing it. For e.g., society like India, though a lower caste individual cannot change his caste but he can change his educational, economic, employment and political status. In this sense, it can be mentioned that there are no completely ‘open’ and mobile societies or completely ‘closed’ and immobile societies.

STOP TO CONSIDER

Social stratification and social mobility are interrelated and interdependent. The nature, type, quality, rate and size or importance of social mobility depends on the nature and the type of social stratification. Class and Caste are two main types of social stratification.

4.4 Relationship between Education and Social Stratification:

Education has a great role towards social stratification. Education is a lifelong process. It starts at the time of birth and continued till death. It is one of the basic activities of people in all human societies. It always brings about changes in every aspect of man’s life. It is the education that helps an individual to overcome his day-to-day problems. Education is understood as a continuous effort on the part of the individuals to acquire more and more knowledge. It is a social institution that has a great social importance especially in the modern complex societies. At birth man does not behave socially. Only education can train up to behave socially and enables the individuals to effectively participate in the social activities.

Social stratification implies the division of society in different strata based on different criteria. Stratification is a process of ranking societies. It is the ranking of individual on a scale of superiority, inferiority, and equality according to some commonly accepted bases of valuations.

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Que.1: Explain the relationship between education and social stratification.

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4.5 Relationship between Education and Social Mobility:

Education has a great role and is one of the important instruments of social mobility. It is the purpose of education to motivate students for higher attainments and make them attracted for uplifting their social status and life style. It has been found that children belonging to poor and backward classes are facing difficulties to receive higher education as well as higher status for achieving upward social mobility. Education helps students to rise over their lower family status, earn higher income and occupy a prestigious position in the society. Because a strongly motivated and hardworking individual only can achieve his goal in life. Therefore, we may say that in order to make education a good means of upward social mobility, aims, objectives, method of teaching and curriculum should be properly planned. Education is a means or factor of social mobility. It is regarded as a generator of upward social mobility. In the society occupation is the principal channel of social mobility. Occupation that helps social mobility requires certain educational qualification. The functions of the educational system are to

provide people with the qualifications and aspiration to meet societies occupational needs. Lack of educational qualification restricts social mobility.

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Que.2: Explain the relationship between education and social mobility.

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4.6 Summing Up:

- Education has a great role towards social stratification. Education is a lifelong process. It starts at the time of birth and continued till death.
- Education helps an individual to overcome his day-to-day problems. Education is understood as a continuous effort on the part of the individuals to acquire more and more knowledge.
- Education can train up the individual to behave socially and enables the individuals to effectively participate in the social activities.
- Education has a great role and is one of the important instruments of social mobility. It is the purpose of education to motivate students for higher attainments and make them attracted for uplifting their social status and life style.
- Education helps students to rise over their lower family status, earn higher income and occupy a prestigious position in the society.
- Education is a means or factor of social mobility. It is regarded as a generator of up word social mobility. In the society occupation is the principal channel of social mobility. Occupation that helps social mobility requires certain educational qualification.

4.7 Questions and Exercises:

• **Short answer questions:**

1. What do you mean by social stratification?
2. What do you mean by social mobility?

• **Long answer questions:**

1. Discuss the relationship between education and social stratification.
2. Discuss the relationship between education and social mobility.

4.8 References and Suggested Readings:

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